



News Release

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SBA Names 2005 North Carolina Minority in Business Champion of The Year

CHARLOTTE - Andrea Harris, President of the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development (NCIMED) in Durham, NC has been named the Small Business Administration's 2005 North Carolina Minority in Business Champion of the Year for her commitment to the advancement of minority business ownership.

The award recognizes Harris for being an effective advocate for minority small business interests. She has demonstrated efforts to improve conditions in the minority small business community.

NCIMED is a statewide nonprofit organization representing the interest of underdeveloped and underutilized sectors of the state's economic base.

Ms. Harris has provided the leadership and guidance for the development of many successful programs to benefit the minority small business community. Alliances have been created with:

- The U. S. Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) to establish The NC Minority Business Development Center (MBDC-NC)
- The NC Legislative Black Caucus on the University Bond Initiative to increase attention on MBE utilization.
- The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) to establish The Women's Business Center of North Carolina (WBC). The Women's Business Center is designed to provide tools and opportunities to help women entrepreneurs achieve their goals.

NCIMED is also an SBA Prequalification Loan Program Intermediary. The Prequalification Loan program uses intermediary organizations to assist prospective borrowers in developing loan application packages and securing loans. For more information about this program visit:

<http://www.sba.gov/financing/sbaloan/prequalification.html>

Ms. Harris has also been named the Small Business Administration's **2005 Southeast Region Minority in Business Champion of the Year**. SBA's Southeast Region includes: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

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